

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/839,587

Examiner

Jacques Veillard

Applicant(s)

BLACKMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed 04/14/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, and 4-42 (Renumbered claims 1-41).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 7/19/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JEFFREY GRIFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the applicant's amendment filed 04/14/2006.
2. Claim 1 has been amended.
3. Claims 1-42 are pending and presented for examination.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given via a telephone message from attorney Dion M. Bregman (Reg. No. 45,645) the undersigned for applicant(s) on July 18, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of organizing information around agreements, comprising:

formulating a request by a first party using a first client computer system for an agreement with a second party using a second client computer system, the request containing an agreement ID that uniquely identifies the request and any agreement formed therefrom;

sending the request over a computer network to the second party;

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receiving correspondence at the first party over the computer network from the second party regarding the request or any agreement formed therefrom, wherein said correspondence comprises information relating to a counter offer, a request for clarification, an acceptance of the request, a rejection of the request or a notification that the correspondence from the second party will be delayed; and

saving the correspondence from the second party according to the unique agreement ID.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of organizing information around agreements as recited in claim [[3]] 1, wherein the correspondence from the second party is encapsulated in an electronic mail message that contains the agreement ID.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of organizing information around agreements as recited in claim [[3]] 1,

wherein the correspondence from the second party includes a main body of information and an attachment to the main body; and

wherein the attachment is according to the agreement ID.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of managing agreements to form a supply chain, comprising:

formulating and sending over a computer network a first request by a first party using

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a first client computer system and receiving a first acceptance over the computer network from a second party using a second client computer system to form a first agreement between the first party and the second party, the first agreement having a unique first agreement ID and specifying a first deliverable to be received by the first party;

formulating and sending over the computer network a second request by the second party using a second client computer system and receiving a second acceptance over the computer network from a third party using a third client computer system to form a second agreement between the third party and the second party, the second request including a field for identifying a downstream agreement and specifying a second deliverable and a date for the second deliverable; and

linking the second agreement to the first agreement by including the first agreement ID in the field identifying a downstream agreement to form a supply chain among the first, second and third parties.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of managing agreements to form a supply chain as recited in claim 36, wherein the ~~step of formulating the second request includes specifying a second deliverable and a date and time for the second deliverable; and~~

~~wherein the step of linking includes:~~

specifying the first deliverable in the second request based on the deliverables of a list of customers, each having a deliverable due from the second party with a due date and time subsequent to the date and time of the second deliverable; and

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obtaining the first agreement ID based on the deliverable specified.

Allowable Subject Matter

Reason For Allowance

5. In view of Applicant's amendment and remarks, filed April 14, 2006, Examiner has fully considered the amendments and remarks and believes that they are deemed to be persuasive.

Claims 1-2, and 4-43 are allowed in light of the Applicant's arguments and in light of the prior art made of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other Prior Art Made Of Record

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will not be supplied with Office actions. Examiners advises the Applicant that the cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. For the use

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of the Office's PAIR system, Applicants may refer to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197.

Points Of Contact

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacques Veillard whose telephone number is (571) 272-4086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri. from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, alt. Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272- 4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

J.V.
J.V.

Jacques Veillard
Patent Examiner TC 2100

July 19, 2006